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Saturday, April 11, 2015

2015 APR 27 A 10:38

Re: Docket # A2015-2 Careywood, ID Post Office

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*Shoshona Grove, Secretary
Postal Regulatory Comm.*

I am writing in regards to the closing of the Careywood Post Office. It is a post office that is very important and much needed in our community. It seems as though there has been a lot of misinformation.

- 1) The highway will not be going through here for at least 10-15 years, according to the Idaho transportation Dept.
- 2) Original date of closing was March 30, then March 28 and then on the 27th workers showed up to take the boxes.
- 3) Those of us who do not have a P.O. box were NEVER notified of the coming closure. We finally heard it through neighbors who do have boxes.
- 4) The post mistress needed more money to run the post office than the previous postmaster because the previous postmaster owns the building, therefore the postmistress has to pay him rent, so of course the position needs more money.
- 5) As for lack of interest, well, tell that to the almost 500 residents who signed a petition to keep it open; this out of a population of around 600.
- 6) USPS sometimes wants our contract station to abide by their rules and sometimes not, this is very confusing. This is giving the impression that because we are a contract station we are treated as "black sheep".
- 7) As this contract station has been here for 100 years and the population of Careywood has grown over that time, the post office is busier and doing better on the retail end, we really don't understand the closing.
- 8) A lot of our residents are retired and in their 70's, 80's and 90's and going to Athol to pick up their mail is a hardship both physically and financially. If they went to pick up their mail Mon-Fri, the average mileage could be 20 miles and more (round trip). If they get 20 mpg they could be spending \$15.00 and up, per week, on gas alone, on a fixed income this is very hard to do.
- 9) I understand now that Careywood residents are having to go to the Athol post office the lines are long, Athol residents are complaining and parking is awful.

Thank you for your time,

Donna Armbruster

36 Kings Spur Ct.

Careywood ID 83809

donnaa1942@yahoo.com

Donna Armbruster

208-683-3828

OK for public record

Shoshana Grove, Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

Attn: A2015-2

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms Grove;

We are appealing to you to rescind the closure of the Careywood Post Office in Idaho. Having moved to this area in October, 2014, we were delighted to have a post office in the area, saving us from driving 15 to 20 miles to another postal outlet. We were impressed by the friendly, helpful personnel, and not having to wait in long lines, or having to wait for a parking place to become available, as has been the complaint in Athol and Sagle, the two closest post offices.

Please reconsider the closure of this postal outlet. This area continues to grow and it would be beneficial to this area to keep this office open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Nemer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Danielle Hall
566 Spyglass Hill Road
Careywood, ID 83809
208-683-0273
April 15, 2015
Case #A2015-2
Shoshana Grove, Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Dear Ms. Grove,

As a full-time resident in Careywood, ID, the abrupt closure of the Careywood Post Office negatively impacts our 1,100 person community, not just the residents, but local and small businesses as well. As a telecommuter who works 75% of the time out of my home, I rely on the Careywood Post Office for weekly work packages. To have an additional commute to the Athol Post Office, which is where our mail and packages are to be rerouted, adds more than 20 minutes round trip, which not only hurts my work productivity, but also increases my fuel costs.

Prior to moving to Careywood, I lived outside of Washington, DC, for more than 20 years in Alexandria, VA. Trips to any local Post Office were filled with dread as long lines and frustration were almost guaranteed. In all my years living in the DC area, I never walked into a Post Office and was greeted with "Hello, Mrs. Hall" as I was at my Careywood Post Office. Not only was I not just another nameless customer, but the Postmaster went out of her way to help me with packages and was prompt, efficient, and always friendly. She took pride in her job and was a great help to the local community. Believe me, Washington, DC Post Offices could take a lesson from Careywood.

In 2011, Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon noted the Postal Regulatory Commission found that maintaining rural post offices amounts to only 0.7 percent of the Postal Service's budget. If true, keeping the Careywood Post Office open to service its residents certainly isn't going to bankrupt the postal system.

In addition to practical concerns stated above, according to Senate Bill (S 1789, 112th Congress) (Sec. 202) requires USPS, before making a determination as to the necessity for closing or consolidating any postal facility, to:

- (1) conduct an area mail processing study that includes a plan to reduce the capacity of, but not close, the facility and a consideration of the effect of the closure or consolidation on the ability of individuals to vote by mail and the ability of USPS to timely deliver ballots by mail;
- (2) provide notice of a determination to close or consolidate a postal facility to Congress, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), and state officials;
- (3) ensure that interested persons have an opportunity to submit public comments during a 45-day period after notice of intent to close or consolidate a postal facility is given;
- (4) consider such public comments and the effects of a proposed closure or consolidation within a 30-day period after the initial period for public comments;
- (5) publish on its website a justification statement for any closure or consolidation; and
- (6) wait 15 days after posting such justification statement before closing or consolidating a postal facility.

I can say with certainty that #3, #4, #5 and #6 of the above referenced did not occur prior to the closure of the Careywood Post Office. And neither was the statute below:

Senate Bill (S 1789, 112th Congress) (Sec. 205) requires USPS, prior to closing or consolidating a post office, including a post office in a rural area, to consider:

- (1) alternatives, including reducing the hours of such post office;
- (2) the effects on the community and businesses served by such post office and on the employees of such post office; and
- (3) whether substantial economic savings to USPS would result.

I think the closing of the Careywood Post Office was made hastily and without proper notification or consideration of community impact or proper cost analyses. If indeed the Careywood Post Office is deemed to be inefficient and impractical to keep open by the U.S.P.S., then certainly that is a sign of the times. But, to have it shuttered without going through proper procedures, analysis, and protocols that were put in place for just this very reason, is unconscionable and in violation of laws established.

Please consider the local impact of this closing on its 1,100 residents and I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Danielle Hall